

U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/551,369
Attorney Docket No.: 12856-001-999
Response to Office Action dated January 8, 2010

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Fig. 5. This sheet, which includes Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5. In Figure 5, previously omitted element 110 has been added. In addition, Figure 5 now includes legible wording in English.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Appendix C)

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application, of which claim 1 is the only independent claim. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A final Office Action (“Office Action”) issued in this case on January 8, 2010. In response to this Office Action, Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment and separately, a Request for Continued Examination (“RCE”), to further continue prosecution on the merits in this case.

A substitute specification is included with this Preliminary Amendment, with the marked-up version of the substitute specification being included in Appendix A and the clean version of the substitute specification being included in Appendix B. No new matter has been added to the substitute specification. The changes have been made to conform the language used in the specification to customary U.S. patent practice.

The Office Action objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5), because Fig. 5 does not include reference numeral 110 related to the tree diagram and because Fig. 5 is (a) in French and (b) of such a low resolution as to render the text generally illegible. In response, Applicants hereby submit a legible Replacement Sheet for Fig. 5, which replaces the original drawing sheet for Fig. 5, adds previously omitted element 110, and includes legible wording in English. Applicants request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner kindly proposed claim language on page 5 of the Office Action that would overcome the Section 112, first and second paragraph, rejections. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies provided in proposing such language. Applicants have amended claim 1 as proposed by the Examiner and therefore submit that this rejection has now been overcome.

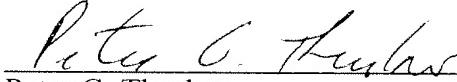
In addition to the changes to claim 1 as provided above, Applicants have made other minor format-related changes to claims 1-10 in an effort to place them in a form more customary to practice and procedure in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. No new matter has been added to the claims.

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In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance in this case. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 7, 2010

 47,138
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